Abstract of the Disclosure

A method and apparatus for distributing and displaying maps is disclosed. The method involves delivery of maps that are not dynamically generated. The area serviced by a map server is divided into fixed zones for which there are static map tiles. When a map is requested by a user, the location of interest is sent to the server by the user via the users client. The server determines which of a plurality of preexisting map tiles contained the location of interest submitted by the client. A central map tile, from this plurality of preexisting maps, containing the location of interest is sent to the client from the map server. The server may also send preexisting map tiles of the zones immediately adjacent to the zone represented in the central map tile. The server may also support a "mini-map" to facilitate user panning of the "greater area", and points of interest, including multi-media descriptions of the points of interest.